

INFORMATION REPORT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY

Austria/USSE/Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 16

April 1978

SUBJECT

Development in USIA Metal Industries

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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FLU 691

1. [REDACTED] there have been no further deliveries of copper from Yugoslavia to USIA. [REDACTED] Soviet officials that Yugoslavia had allegedly contracted with a "western state" to deliver large quantities of copper, thereby necessitating cessation of deliveries to USIA.
2. Despite supplies of copper which USIA had been receiving from Yugoslavia up to this time, USIA enterprises have continually suffered from a shortage of this item. In an effort to remedy a deteriorating situation, USIA, during [REDACTED], has been offering large quantities of finished electrical goods to firms dealing in metal and metal products in exchange for copper. These offers were not accepted, since the firms in question have themselves been short of copper.
3. [REDACTED] all sales of sheet metal by the Moser plant in Weidhofen a/d Ribs, Lower Austria, were stopped and a Soviet inspection committee was expected at the plant. [REDACTED] this statement and adds that [REDACTED] the Soviet commission actually arrived at the plant. According to plant personnel, the purpose of the commission was to determine the actual capacity and present production of the plant and to earmark all available raw materials, semi-finished, and finished products for Soviet use. [REDACTED] all future production of sheet metal from this factory would be destined for the Soviet armament industry.
4. [REDACTED] this plant was ordered by the commission to turn out all suitable steel in the form of tractor axle shafts which would then be sent presumably to the Skoda works in Czechoslovakia. [REDACTED] Comm. Such tractor axles would be suitable for heavy military vehicles, including tanks).

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